

# Missouri River Basin Water Management 2010 Flood Operations

**September 21, 2010**

**9:00 a.m. Columbia, Missouri**

**7:00 p.m. Oregon, Missouri**

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US Army Corps of Engineers  
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# Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System



Congressionally Authorized

## Project Purposes

Flood Control

Navigation

Hydropower

Irrigation

Recreation

Water Supply

Water Quality

Fish and Wildlife

(Including endangered species)

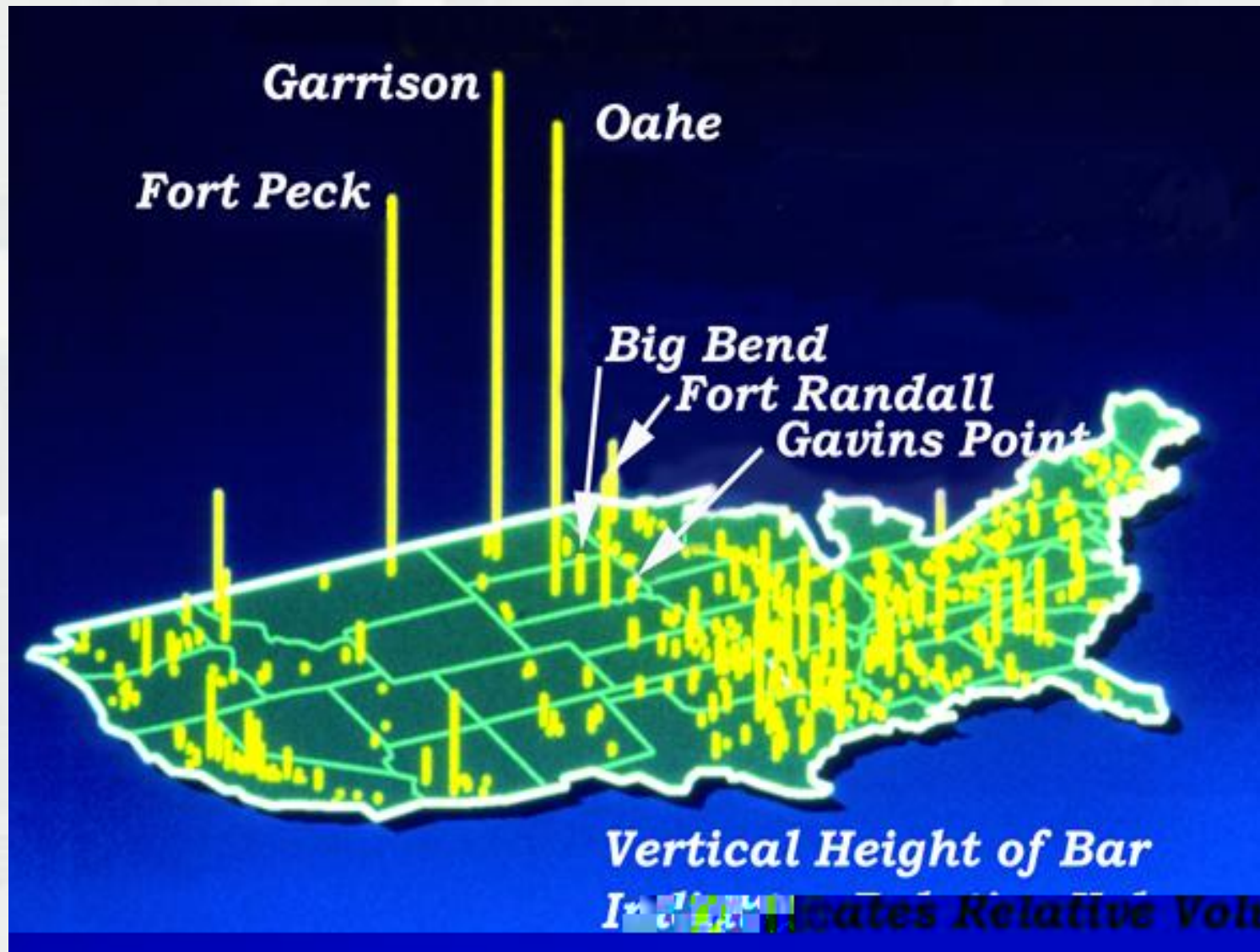
**Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project**

**Sioux City, IA – St. Louis, MO**

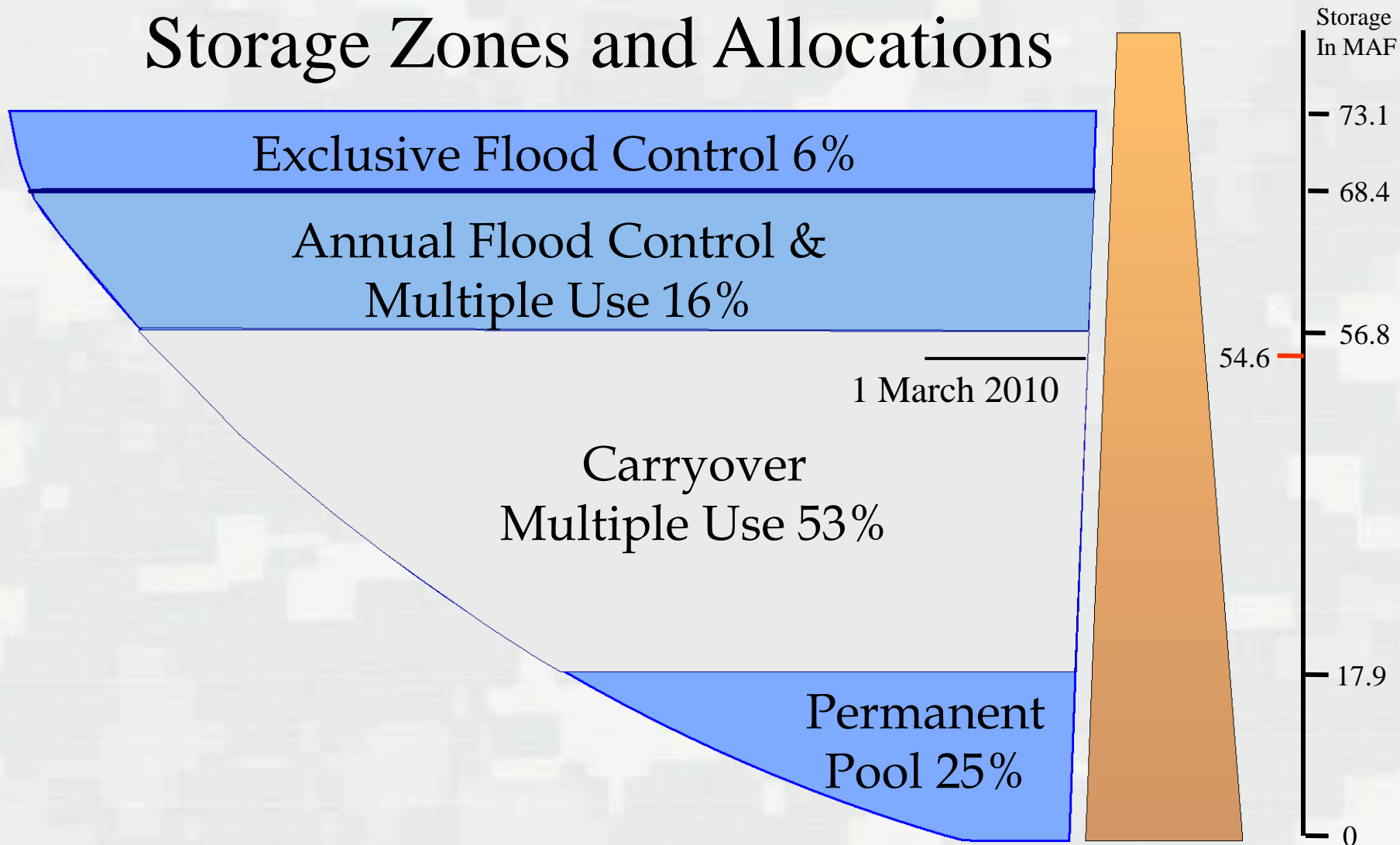
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# Storage Capacity of Corps Reservoirs

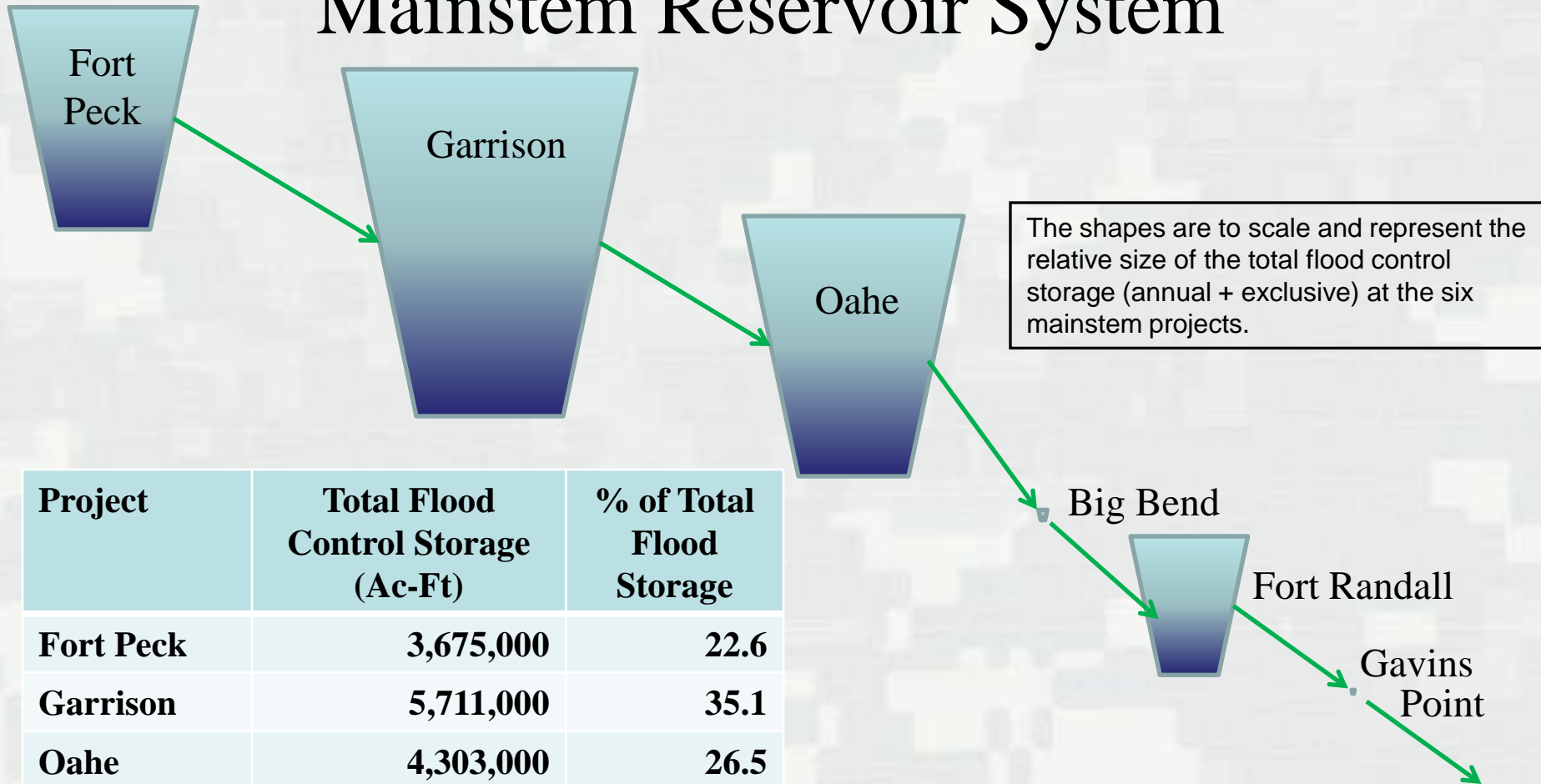


# Missouri River Mainstem System Storage Zones and Allocations



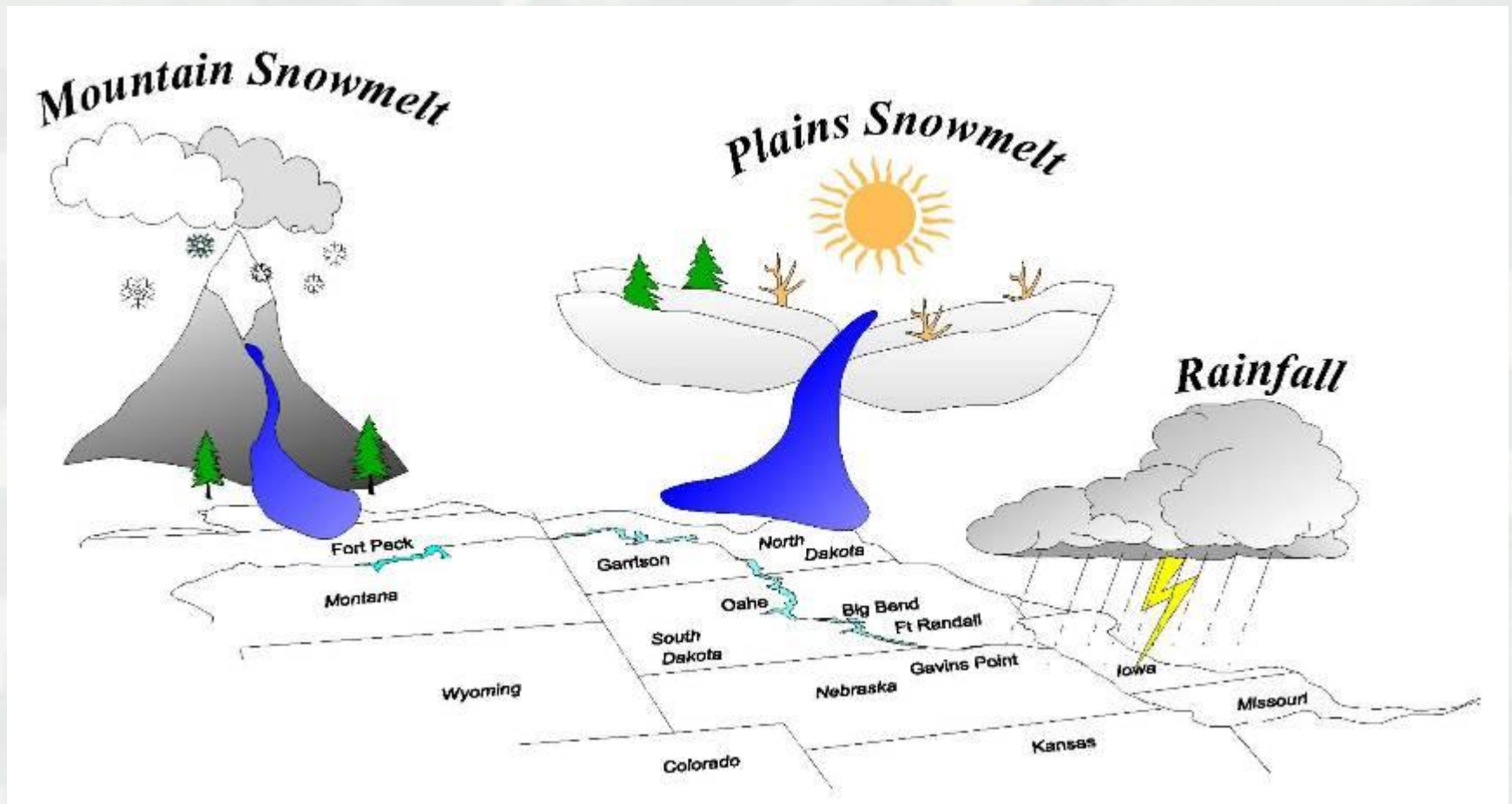


# Flood Control Storage Capacity Mainstem Reservoir System



Project	Total Flood Control Storage (Ac-Ft)	% of Total Flood Storage
Fort Peck	3,675,000	22.6
Garrison	5,711,000	35.1
Oahe	4,303,000	26.5
Big Bend	177,000	1.1
Fort Randall	2,294,000	14.1
Gavins Point	108,000	0.7

# Types of Missouri River Basin Runoff



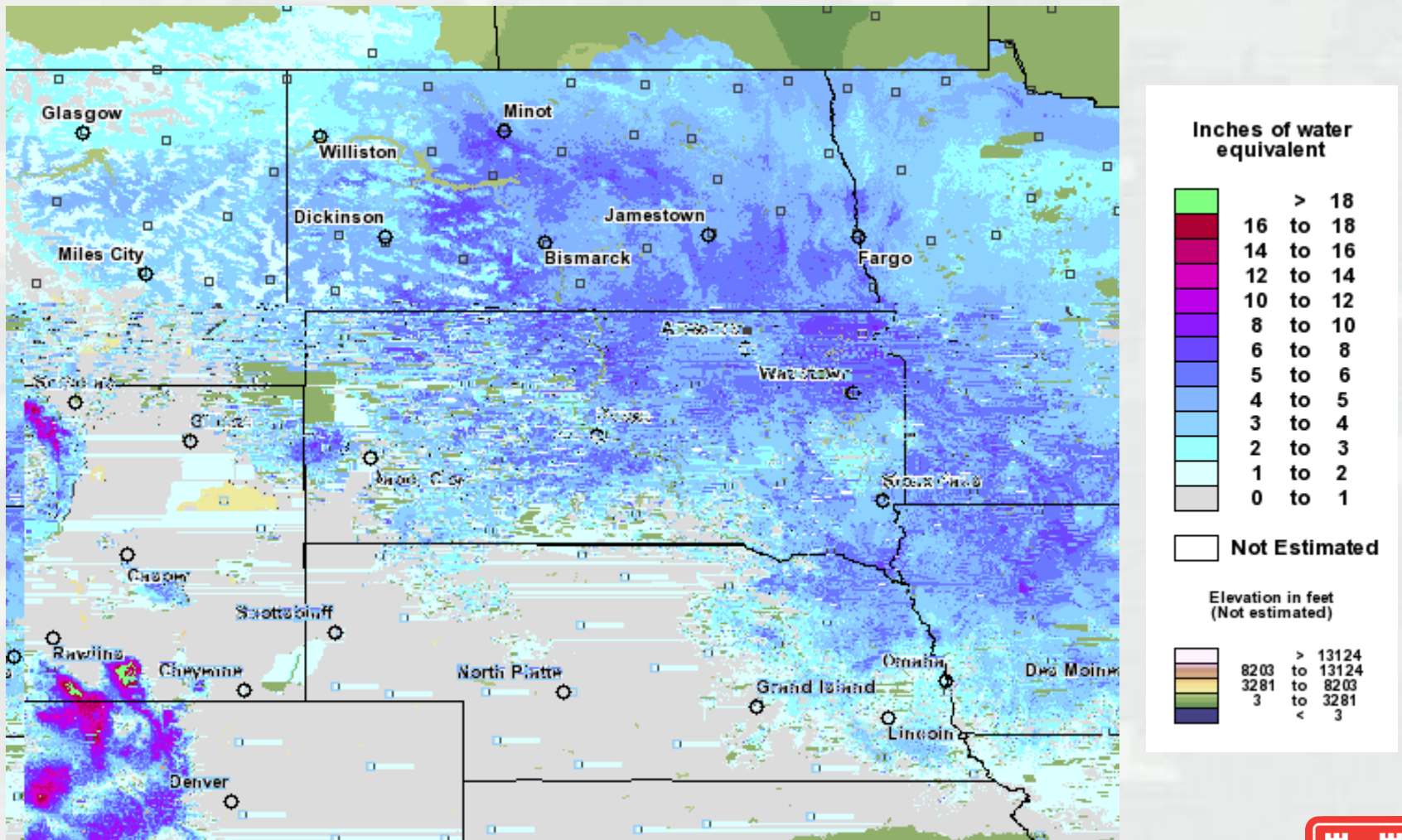
# 2010 Flood

## Initial Conditions

- Full flood control capacity of the mainstem reservoir system was available at start of runoff season
  - ▶ Garrison and Oahe at base of Annual Flood Control
  - ▶ Additional storage available in Carryover Multiple Use at Fort Peck
  - ▶ Refill of Fort Randall limited due to plains snowpack
  - ▶ Gavins Point and Big Bend at desired operating levels



# Plains Snowpack



20 February 2010



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# March 2010

- March 1 to April 1 reservoir elevation changes
  - ▶ Fort Peck +1.8 feet to elevation 2224.2 feet
  - ▶ Garrison + 0.9 foot to elevation 1838.3 feet
  - ▶ Oahe + 5.9 feet to elevation 1613.9 feet
  - ▶ Fort Randall + 12.2 feet to elevation 1361.1 feet
- Mountain snowpack well below normal on April 5
  - ▶ Fort Peck 73 percent of normal
  - ▶ Garrison 74 percent of normal



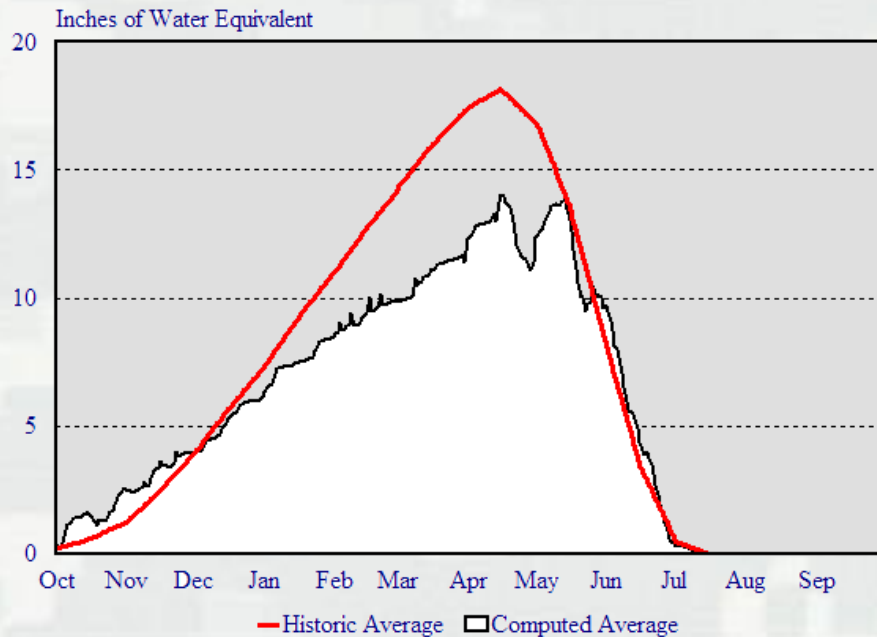
# April and May 2010

- Initial melt of mountain snowpack began in late April
- Cold temperatures and additional heavy snow occurred in May
  - ▶ Mountain snowpack accumulations at or above previous peaks by mid-May
  - ▶ Delayed melt accompanied by rain results in above normal runoff



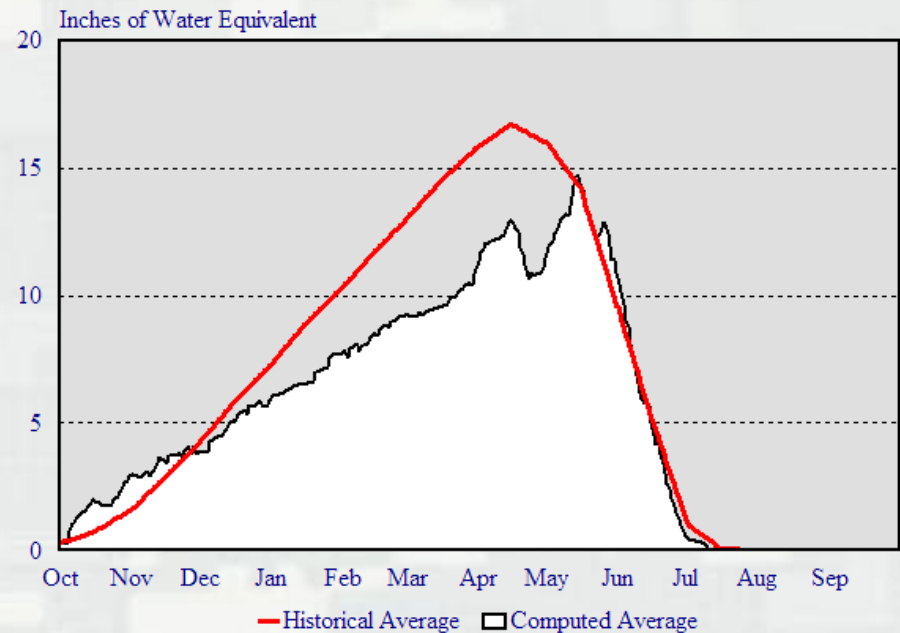
# Mountain Snowpack Water Content 2009-2010

## *Total Above Fort Peck*



The Mountain Snowpack in the reach above Fort Peck peaked at 77% of the normal peak accumulation on April 15.

## *Total Fort Peck to Garrison*

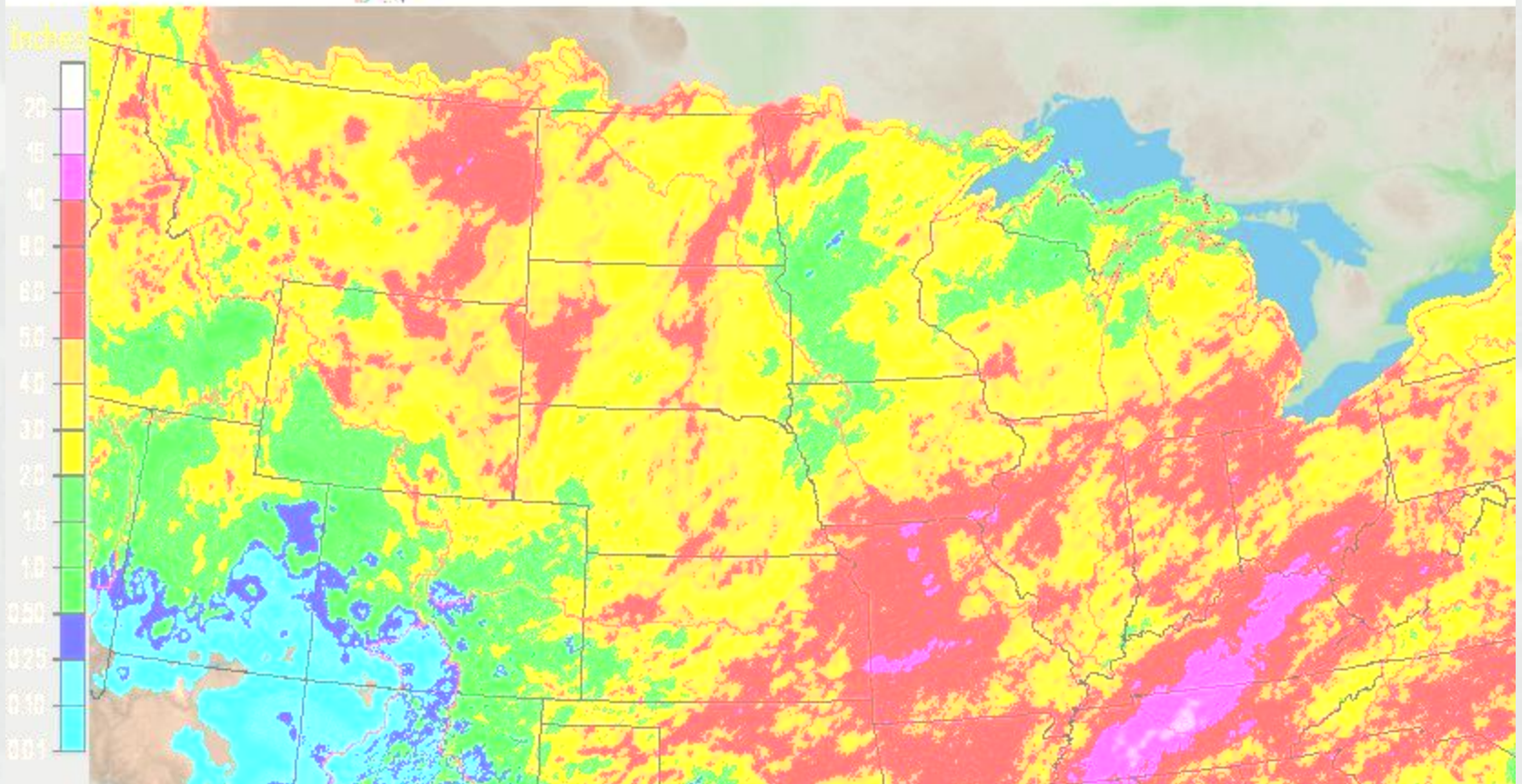


The Mountain Snowpack in the reach between Fort Peck and Garrison peaked at 88% of the normal peak accumulation on May 13.



# Observed Precipitation – May 2010

NWS Central Region: May, 2010 Monthly Observed Precipitation  
Valid at 6/1/2010 1200 UTC Created 6/3/10 21:40 UTC



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# April and May 2010

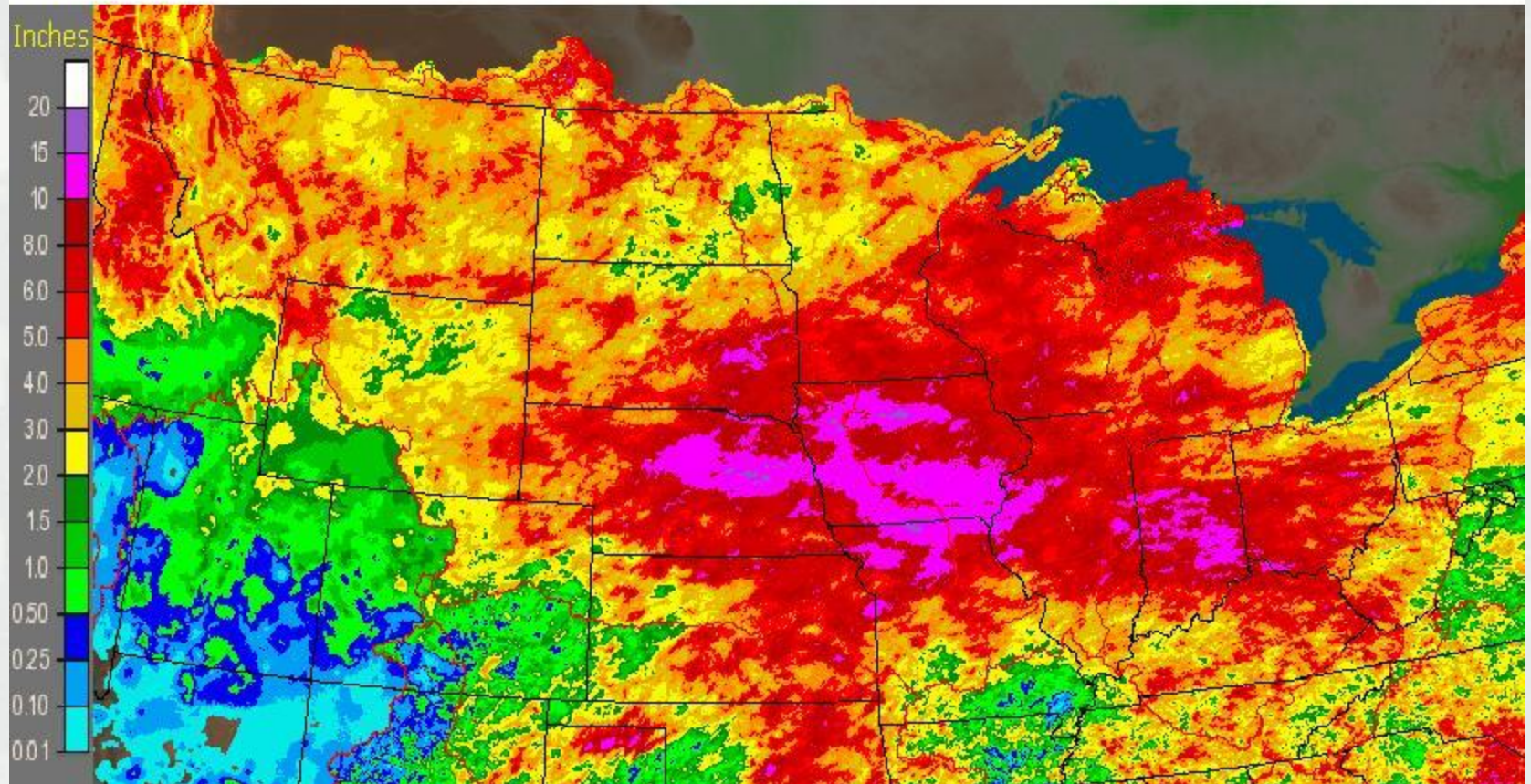
- Heavy rain causes flooding across lower basin
- April 1 to June 1 reservoir elevation changes
  - ▶ Fort Peck +2.2 feet to elevation 2227.4 feet
  - ▶ Garrison + 2.7 feet to elevation 1841.0 feet
  - ▶ Oahe + 3.3 feet to elevation 1617.2 feet\*
  - ▶ Fort Randall – 0.3 feet to elevation 1360.8 feet

\* Oahe exclusive zone extends from 1617.0 to 1620.0



# Observed Precipitation – June 2010

NWS Central Region: June, 2010 Monthly Observed Precipitation  
Valid at 7/1/2010 1200 UTC– Created 7/3/10 21:40 UTC



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# June 2010

- Extensive flooding below reservoir system due to heavy rain over uncontrolled drainage areas
  - ▶ Lower 600 miles of Missouri River above flood stage in June & July
  - ▶ Several communities and thousands of acres of cropland inundated
- Numerous levee systems threatened
  - ▶ Five non-federal levees failed; many sustained damage
  - ▶ Federal levees held, but several sustained damage



# 2010 Flood Control Operations

## Fort Peck

- Releases have been maintained at minimum level to meet downstream requirements since the fall of 2008
- Peak inflows = 36,000 cfs
- Releases during flood event = 5,000 to 6,500 cfs
  - ▶ Coordinated release reduction with irrigators during periods of rain and high flows on the Milk River
- Reservoir captured over 2.7 million acre-feet of runoff since March 1
- Currently peaking 1.8 feet into annual flood control zone and steady
  - ▶ July 5 marked the official end of drought impacts





# 2010 Flood Control Operations

## Garrison

- Peak inflows = 85,000 cfs
- Releases during flood event = 14,500 to 16,500 cfs
  - ▶ Releases scheduled to meet municipal and industrial water supply needs below the dam
- Reservoir captured over 4.5 million acre-feet of runoff since March 1
- Reservoir peaked at elevation 1851.4 feet on July 30, 1.4 feet into 4-foot exclusive flood control zone
- Currently 0.8 foot below exclusive zone and declining slowly



# 2010 Flood Control Operations

## Oahe

- Peak inflows = 65,000 cfs
- Releases scheduled based on downstream conditions
- Reservoir captured over 3.2 million acre-feet of runoff since March 1
- Reservoir peaked at elevation 1617.9 feet on June 26, 0.9 foot into 3-foot exclusive flood control zone;
- Currently 4.6 feet into annual flood control pool and declining slowly



# 2010 Flood Control Operations

## Big Bend

- Reservoir maintained in a narrow 1-foot operating band
- Very little flood control storage; primarily a hydropower dam



# 2010 Flood Control Operations

## Fort Randall

- Winter refill limited due to heavy plains snowpack
- Peak inflows = 64,000 cfs
- Releases scheduled based on downstream conditions
  - ▶ Reduced to near zero when Gavins Point was very high
- Reservoir captured over 1.6 million acre-feet of runoff since March 1
- Reservoir peaked at elevation 1368.1 feet on June 22, 3.1 feet into 10-foot exclusive flood control zone
- Annual fall drawdown below base of annual flood control zone currently ongoing





# 2010 Flood Control Operations

## Gavins Point

- Peak inflows = 44,000 cfs
- Releases scheduled based on upstream and downstream conditions
- Very little flood control storage
- Reservoir peaked at elevation 1209.7 feet on June 14, 1.7 feet into 2-foot exclusive flood control zone, just 0.3 feet from top of gates
- Release reductions made on two occasions
  - ▶ June 12-14
  - ▶ June 21-26



# 2010 Flood Control Operations

## June 12-14, 2010

- Gavins Point releases reduced 26,500 cfs to 22,000 cfs in response to downstream flooding
  - ▶ Heavy rain in Fort Randall to Gavins Point drainage area followed
  - ▶ Releases increased to 33,000 cfs on June 14 to prevent flow over top of spillway gates



# Gavins Point Spillway

June 15, 2010



# 2010 Flood Control Operations

## June 21-26, 2010

- Gavins Point releases reduced from 33,000 cfs to 15,000 cfs
  - ▶ Largest 1-day reduction in system releases
  - ▶ 15,000 cfs held for 2.5 days
  - ▶ Significant rises in Gavins Point and Fort Randall
  - ▶ Releases stepped up to full powerplant capacity 34,000 cfs over 4 days





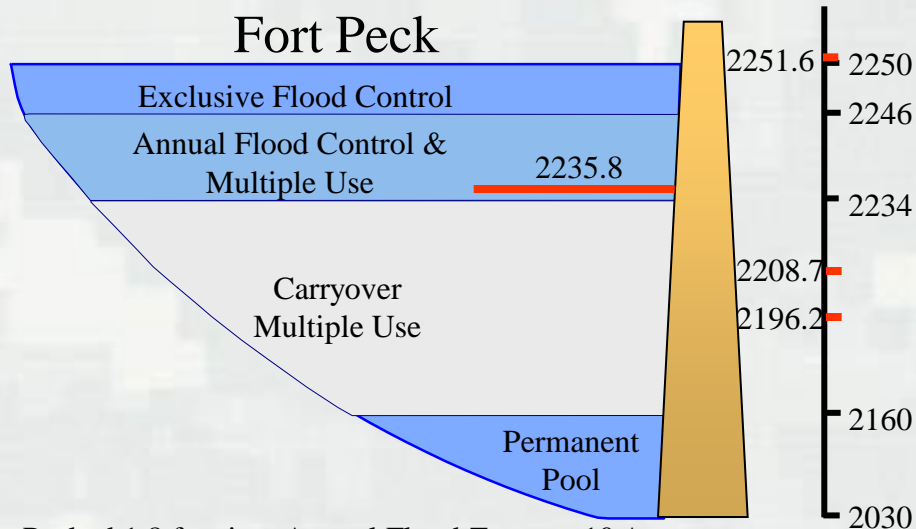
# 2010 Flood Control Operations Summary

- Full flood control capacity of the mainstem reservoir system was available at start of runoff season
- Four of the six reservoirs have utilized the exclusive flood control zones this year
- Mainstem and tributary reservoirs reduced flows as much as 80,000 to 100,000 cfs during flood event
- Forecast annual runoff above reservoir system is 37.3 million acre-feet, 150 percent of normal, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest year since 1898



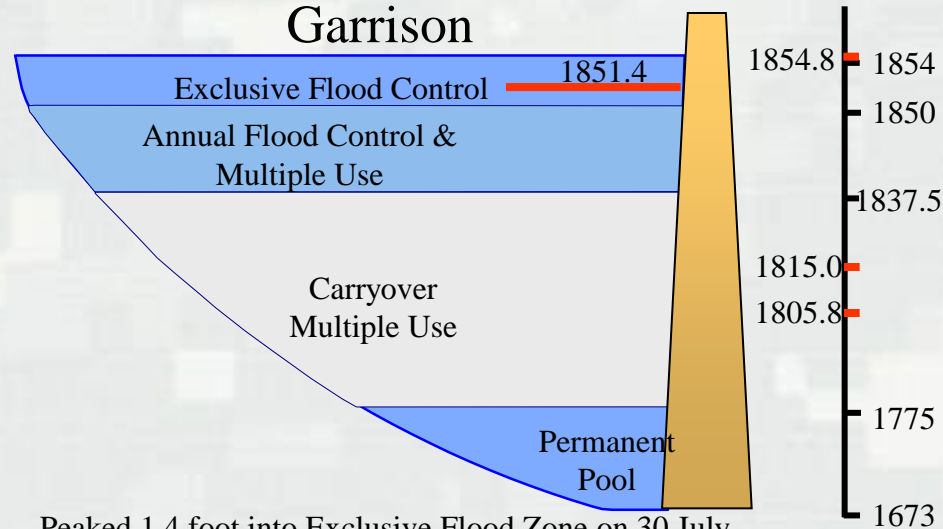
# Peak Reservoir Levels – Summer 2010

## Fort Peck



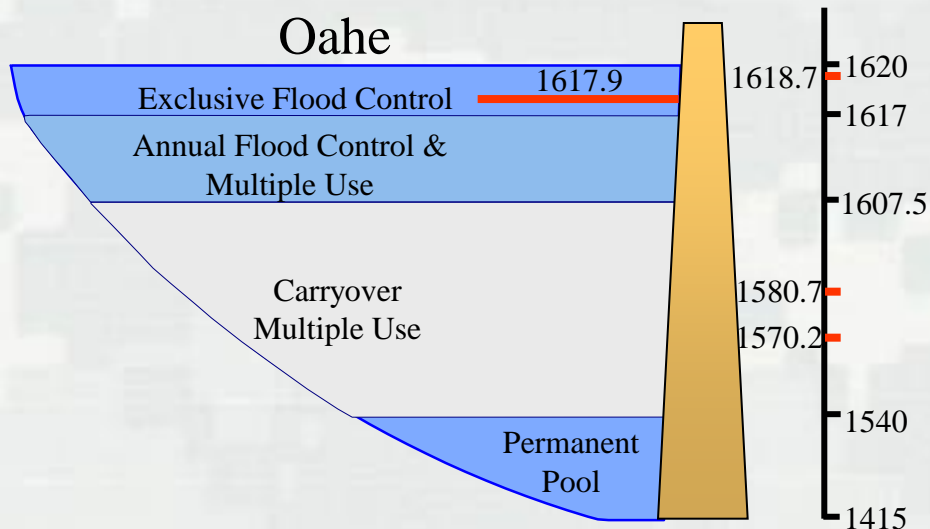
Peaked 1.8 feet into Annual Flood Zone on 10 August  
Current Elevation = 2235.8 ft

## Garrison



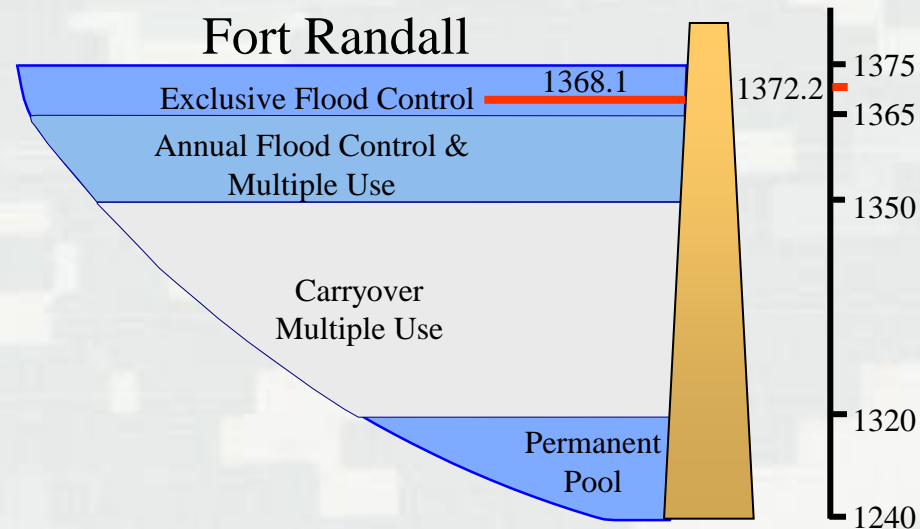
Peaked 1.4 foot into Exclusive Flood Zone on 30 July  
Current Elevation = 1849.2 ft

## Oahe



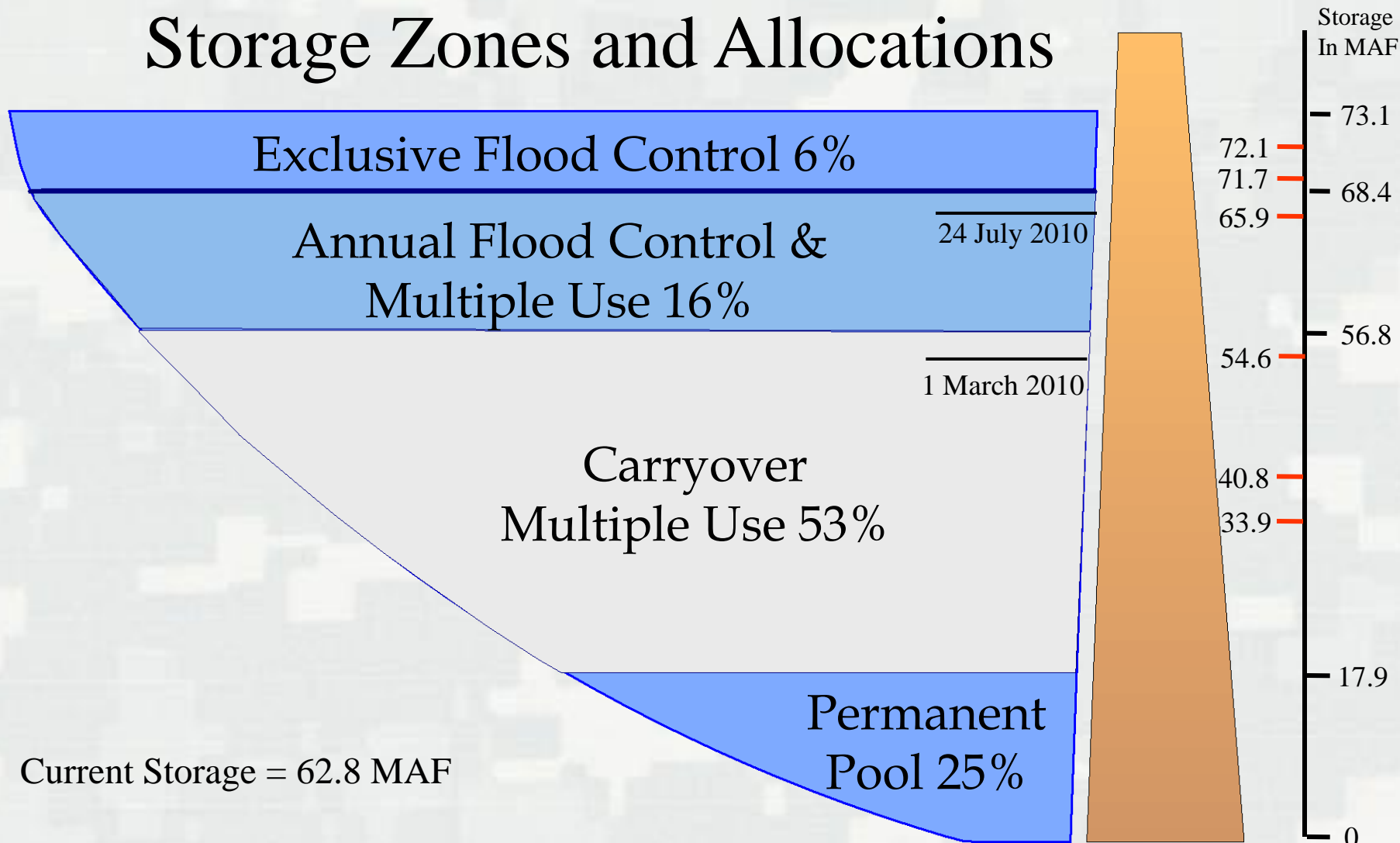
Peaked 0.9 feet into Exclusive Flood Zone on 27 June  
Current Elevation = 1612.1 ft

## Fort Randall



Peaked 3.1 feet into Exclusive Flood Zone on 23 June  
Current Elevation = 1352.8 ft

# Missouri River Mainstem System Storage Zones and Allocations



# 2010 Flood Control

## The Way Ahead: Flood Evacuation

- In process of evacuating over 9 MAF of stored flood waters by start of next year's runoff season on 1 March
- Evacuation releases maintained through early December
  - ▶ 10-day extension to navigation season
- Higher than normal winter releases planned
  - ▶ Good for winter energy production
  - ▶ Reduces intake concerns during periods ice formation



# Questions and Discussion?



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